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comments-alaska-tongass-petersburg@fs.fed.us

Sandra Stevens, Petersburg Deputy District Ranger
USDA Forest Service
Petersburg Ranger District
12 North Nordic Drive, P.O. Box 1328
Petersburg, AK 99833-1328

Subject: Comments: Kake-Petersburg Intertie Project

Dear Ms. Stevens:

1. The following are comments submitted by Suzanne Wood regarding the above referenced.
2. A copy of these comments has been served on each individual identified below.
3. I strongly support Alternative 1 - No Action. Following are comments I would like to include for the record.
4. I previously submitted comments relating to the Kake-Petersburg Intertie Project on 20 April 2009, including:

“However, I do support an option included in the “Final Report - Comprehensive Energy Feasibility Study for Sealaska Corporation”; DOE Award Number: DE-FC36-02GO12105 (December 31, 2005) [web [link](#) included below].

“This report provides seemingly viable options for Sealaska’s “isolated communities”, including a hydropower facility at Kake’s Cathedral Falls Creek.”

“Developing Cathedral Falls Creek rather than either Petersburg-Kake intertie option would free up millions of dollars that could enable other Alaska communities to develop their own “local” renewable energy resources. Rural Alaska communities need locally generated renewable energy, lower ratepayer rates, and energy related employment opportunities to survive.”

<http://www.akenergyauthority.org/PDF%20files/EnergyStudyforSealaskaCorp12-31-2005.pdf>

5. “In Southeast, Kake turns to solar power—Federal grant money offers village boost toward goal of kicking fossil fuel habit.” (*Juneau Empire*, 5 January 2015)
<http://tablet.olivesoftware.com/Olive/Tablet/AnchorageDailyNews/SharedArticle.aspx?href=ANC%2F2015%2F01%2F05&id=Ar00103>

is a timely article and details the successful installation of solar panels in Kake, and the very real returns this renewable resource is already providing versus their current \$5.29 a gallon (before taxes) gasoline. I applaud and support this directed funding 100%. I support re-earmarking the \$40 million Kake-Petersburg Road funding and direct it toward localized generation of renewable resource development within the community of Kake.

6. Wally McDonald, owner of Fleet Refrigeration in Petersburg, Alaska, 907-772-4625, is an excellent source for residential and commercial air source, and geothermal heat pumps, with hands-on installation experience, and knowledgeable staff. Redirecting the currently earmarked

\$40 million Kake-Petersburg Road funding towards contemporary energy solutions within the community of Kake offers tangible *bang for the buck* possibilities.

7. A Southeast intertie should be considered last in priority to developing “local” energy resources which free communities like Kake from the expense of diesel power generation.

8. Kake’s surrounding marine environment opens up tidal, geothermal alternatives that have only improved in design and output with reduced monetary outlay. One has to realistically question the \$40 million State of Alaska funding appropriated for the Kupreanof to Kake Access Road, and the not yet itemized millions that are necessary for the power line infrastructure, installation, and associated labor costs, overruns, change orders, etc.

9. Furthermore, I question the year-round availability of economical hydroelectric power delivered to Kake, especially during periods of low-flow at Tyee and Swan Lake. There may be insufficient excess reliable power to even provide current ratepayers future energy usage expansion. Ketchikan, during low flow periods, uses diesel generation to fulfill customer needs.

10. Finally, as a ratepayer of PMP&L and the SEAPA system, I question where the additional operating and maintenance funding for the 51.9 to 60.3 miles (as detailed in the DEIS action alternatives) for the intertie will materialize from considering Kake’s small population—who should shoulder the burden of paying those expenses annually, in perpetuity?

11. I strongly support Alternative 1 - No Action, and also support the renewable resource options included above as more realistic local solutions to Kake’s energy issues. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

/s/

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cc: Governor Bill Walker
Lieutenant Governor Byron Malta
Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Senator Bert Stedman
Alaska Energy Authority
City of Kake
Sealaska Corporation